

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date
22 March 2001 (22.03.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/19993 A2(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C12N 15/13, C07K 14/35, A61K 38/00, 39/00, A61P 31/04, C12N 9/00

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/25512

(22) International Filing Date:
18 September 2000 (18.09.2000)

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(30) Priority Data:
60/154,322 17 September 1999 (17.09.1999) US(63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part (CIP) to earlier application:
US 60/154,322 (CIP)
Filed on 17 September 1999 (17.09.1999)

Published:

— Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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WO 01/19993 A2

(54) Title: VIRULENCE GENES OF *M. MARINUM* AND *M. TUBERCULOSIS*(57) Abstract: Methods for identifying, isolating and mutagenizing virulence genes of mycobacteria, e.g., *M. marinum* and *M. tuberculosis*, are described. Also described are isolated virulence genes and fragments of them, isolated gene products and fragments of them, avirulent bacteria in which one or more virulence genes are mutagenized, attenuated vaccines containing such mutant bacteria, and methods to elicit an immune response in a host, using such mutant bacteria.